In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1-59.   (Canceled)

60.   (Currently amended) A method of selectively distributing data to a set of devices linked by a network, each said device having at least one unique identifier comprising a string of bits or characters, the method comprising the steps of:

    selecting devices to be members of the set, the set of devices being selected to receive the data based on the at least one unique identifier; and

    distributing data to at least the selected devices, the data including at least one matching key for matching at least a portion of the unique identifier of the selected devices;

    wherein the unique identifier is a string of a first length and the key corresponds to a shorter length subset of the string of the first length; and

    wherein the shorter length subset of the string is of a selectable length.

61.   (Previously presented) A method according to claim 60 wherein the data is broadcast to a plurality of the devices over the network but wherein only selected devices selectively install the data.

62.   (Currently amended) A method of selectively installing data at one of a set of devices linked by a network, each device having a unique identifier, the method comprising determining whether to install the data based on matching at least a portion of the unique identifier to at least one received matching key associated with the data;

    wherein the unique identifier is a string of bits or characters of a first length and the received key corresponds to a shorter length subset of the string of the first length; and

<u>wherein the shorter length subset of the string is of a selectable length</u>.

63.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the unique identifier is independent of the content of the data.

64.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the unique identifier is a device hardware identifier.

65.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the set of devices comprises one of a plurality of ~~substantially arbitrarily~~ partitioned subsets of a population of devices.

66.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the set of devices is selected by one or more predetermined geographic regions common to the set <u>of</u> devices.

67.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the data comprises instruction code or a software update.

68.   (Canceled)

69.   (Canceled)

70.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[69]]<u>60</u> wherein the first length is at least ~~about~~ 32 bits.

71.   (Canceled)

72.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the step of installing the data is performed after performing one or more predetermined action steps to determine whether or not to install the data.

73.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the one or more action steps include determining whether the data includes the key corresponding to the device.

74.   (Canceled)

75.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the one or more action steps are performed when a device initialization instruction is performed by the device when the device is switched to a power on state or when the device is switched to a standby state.

76.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the one or more action steps are performed periodically or at regular intervals while the device is in communication with the network.

77.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the one or more predetermined action steps include the steps of:

        determining the version of a device data of a set device;

        comparing the version of the device data with the version of the data to be distributed; and

        determining whether or not to perform the step of downloading the data to be distributed, based on the outcome of the step of comparing the versions of the device data and the data to be distributed.

78.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the predetermined action steps are performed by the device.

79.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein each device is arranged to run a manual update routine for allowing a user to decide whether to download data flagged as user selectable from the network, wherein the manual update routine is modified so that, in place of

user decision, the routine runs a test routine to determine whether to download data flagged as user selectable.

80.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 79 wherein the test routine comprises comparing the matching key to the unique identifier.

81.   (Currently amended) A device for ~~running~~receiving data, the device being linked to other devices by a network, the device including:

a processor;

a memory with stored data processable by the processor; and

at least one unique identifier comprising a string of bits or characters,

wherein the data stored by the memory includes a routine for checking for update data for the device, and for selectively downloading the data based on at least a portion of the unique identifier, and at least one key associated with the update data;

wherein the unique identifier is a string of a first length and the at least a portion of the unique identifier is determined from a shorter length subset of the string of the first length; and

wherein the shorter length subset of the string is of a selectable length.

82.   (Previously presented) The device of claim 81 wherein the update data includes the key and the device selectively downloads the update data when the key correlates to the at least a portion of the unique identifier.

83.   (Previously presented) The device of claim 81 wherein the unique identifier is a device hardware identifier.

84.   (Canceled)

85.   (Canceled)

86.   (Currently amended) The device of claim [[85]]81 wherein the first length is at least
~~about~~ 32 bits.

87.   (Canceled)

88.   (Previously presented) The device of claim 81 wherein the device is a set top box.

89.   (Previously presented) The device of claim 81 wherein the network is a subscription
television service.

90.   (Previously presented) The device of claim 81 wherein the devices are:

      mobile telephones and the network is a mobile telephone network; or

      telephone base stations and the network is a telephone network; or

      computers and the network is a computer network; or

            back to base home security devices and the network is a back to base security
network.

91.   (Currently amended) A system for selectively distributing data to of a set of devices
linked by a

      network, each said device having at least one unique identifier comprising a string of bits
or characters, the system comprising:

      means for selecting devices to be members of the set, the set of devices being selected to
receive the data based on respective unique identifiers of the devices;

      means for distributing data to at least each selected device, the data including at least one
matching key for matching at least a portion of the unique identifier of the selected devices; and

            means for ~~running~~storing the data [[on]]at each respective selected device;

            wherein the unique identifier is a string of a first length and the at least a portion of the
unique identifier is determined from a shorter length subset of the string of the first length; and

            wherein the shorter length subset of the string is of a selectable length.

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92.   (Withdrawn) A method of updating a device which has an update routine which checks for available updates over a network and selects available updates which are applicable to the device for download, each update having associated therewith an update condition selected from a plurality of pre-determined conditions which conditions include at least (1) at least one power change condition and (2) a user-selection condition, the device being arranged to execute a user confirmation routine on selection of an available applicable update associated with a user-selection condition, the method comprising executing a routine which performs a test to determine whether a selective update criterion is met in place of the user confirmation routine and which automatically opts to install the available applicable update if the selective update criterion is met.

93.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92 wherein the device is arranged to execute the routine which performs the test to determine whether a selective update criterion is met.

94.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92 wherein performing the test comprises comparing additional update data associated with the available applicable update to device data obtained from the device.

95.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 94 wherein the additional update data comprises matching key data and the device data comprises a unique identifier of the device.

96.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 95 wherein performing the test comprises detecting at least a partial match between said matching key data and said unique identifier.

97.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 94 wherein the extent of match required for a positive test result is specified in the additional update data.

98.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92 wherein said at least one power change condition includes (a) detection of a switch to or from a standby condition and (b) a hard power-up condition.

99.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92 wherein the conditions further include (3) an immediate installation condition signifying that an available applicable update is to be applied without waiting for a power change condition or user selection.

100.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92 wherein the routine which performs the test is arranged to revert to requesting user confirmation in the absence of data specifying the selective update criterion.

101.   (Withdrawn) A method of providing updated data to a population of devices, the method comprising partitioning the population of devices into subsets, making the updated data available to a first subset, and subsequently making the data available to further subsets, characterized by monitoring the response following making available to the first subset and setting the size of further subsets and/or the rate of making data available to further subsets based on the response.

102.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101 wherein the size of further subsets is increased in the event of a low level of response.

103.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101 wherein the subsets are defined by specifying a portion of a matching key to match to a unique identifier of each device.

104.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 103 wherein the size of each subset is determined by setting the length of the portion of matching key to match, wherein a shorter matching portion will match a larger number of devices.

105.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 104 wherein a longer portion of matching key is used to define a smaller first subset and a shorter portion of matching key is used to define at least one larger further subset.

106.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101 wherein monitoring the response comprises obtaining a measure of response based on user feedback.

107.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the devices are set top boxes.

108.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the network is a subscription television service.

109.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 108 wherein the set of devices is selected by determining one or more channels subscribed by and common to users of the respective devices.

110.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the devices are:
        mobile telephones and the network is a mobile telephone network; or
        telephone base stations and the network is a telephone network; or
        computers and the network is a computer network; or
        back to base home security devices and the network is a back to base security network.

111.   (Previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for performing the method of claim 60.